

Uncertainty

There is an old Chinese saying, “the plans of man cannot compare to the plans of heaven”. It means that no matter how much one makes plans for the future, there will always be some unexpected happenings, making some changes to the original plan, making one uncertain about what is going to happen next. Life surprises you, me and everyone. These surprises give meaning to life because there is always something to anticipate. In this I believe.

Who doesn't wish to know what's going to happen in the future? Well, I sure do sometimes. Sometimes I wish I knew what questions would come out during the examinations. That way, I could memorise all the answers in advance. I could get the full marks I never dared dreamed of. But then the whole element of excitement and surprise would be lost. The accelerated thumping of my heart when I wait anxiously for the outcome of my hard work. The occasional elation when I find out that I scored high marks for an examination I thought I would never do well in.

I believe anticipation is what makes life so interesting. Look at it this way. If a person knows exactly what he is going to do the next day then there is no anticipation for what is about to happen. Life becomes very expected and there is nothing to look forward to. Then what exactly is the meaning of life if there is nothing to look forward to?

When I was young, I often wondered whether we are all just playthings created by huge giants for entertainment purposes. Perhaps they created everything we know. Our history as we know it, our earth, the outer space, you name it. Who knows? Until now, I still do not doubt that possibility. This ambiguous subject about our origins keeps me anticipating for the day when I find out the truth.

Perhaps someone is going to tell me that I am spouting nonsense. Perhaps I should change my topic to something more traditional, like my relationships with my friends or family. I am uncertain of what will really become of this essay. Perhaps I will fail miserably. But this is what I believe. I believe that life is full of questions, ‘perhaps’, ‘what if’s and ‘maybe’s. I believe that is what keeps us going. Unsure of what is to come yet mustering the courage to take one step after, expecting the unexpected, embracing the unprecedented. This uncertainty of the unknown future gives us something to anticipate in life, as we keep wanting to know more, wanting to find out what will happen next.

The uncertainty of life. I believe that's what makes life, life.